

Message Text

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17

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SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 OMB-01 AID-05 ACDA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7019

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: ISRAELI CORRESPONDENTS REPORT U.S. SURPRISE

AT ISRAELI CABINET RESOLUTION

SUMMARY. WASHINGTON -BASED ISRAELI CORRESPONDENTS
JUNE 10 REPORTED SURPRISE IN WASHINGTON WITH GOI
CABINET COMMUNIQUE CONCERNING CONSULTATION WITH
US TO ACHIEVE UNDERSTANDING AND ACCORD WITH RESPECT
TO FURTHER STAGES OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS FOLLOWING
INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT. WHILE NOTING PROBLEMS,
JERUSALEM POST CORRESPONDENT SAID ISRAELI SOURCES
BELIEVED THIS IS KEY TO SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION OF
INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT. END SUMMARY.

1. JERUSALEM POST (BLITZER) REPORTED " AMERICAN
SOURCES" WERE SURPRISED BY ISRAEL CABINET'S DECISION
TO HAVE PRIME MINISTER RABIN DISCUSS US IDEAS
ABOUT NATURE OF FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT DURING HIS TALKS
WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER.

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BLITZER REPORTED: "JERUSALEM HAS TRADITIONALLY

ATTEMPTED TO DISCOURAGE THE U.S. FROM ADOPTING FINAL POSITIONS ON DIFFICULT ISSUES CONFRONTING THE MIDDLE EAST PARTIES SUCH AS FINAL BORDERS, THE PALESTINIANS AND THE FUTURE STATUS OF EAST JERUSALEM. BUT, ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, FORD'S COMMENTS ON THESE PROBLEMS WILL DETERMINE THE CHANCES OF ACHIEVING ANOTHER ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN INTERIM AGREEMENT IN SINAI."

2. ACCORDING TO BLITZER, RABIN IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN COORDINATING U.S.-ISRAELI POSITIONS ON MOST OF THESE ISSUES AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE. ISRAELI SOURCES, NOTED BLITZER, SAID KEY TO SUCCESSFUL INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT LIES IN ABILITY OF U.S. AND ISRAELI TO WORK OUT COMMON POSITION.

3. IN DESCRIBING PROBLEMS TO THIS APPROACH, BLITZER SAID: "OBSERVERS HERE IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED THE PROBLEMS WHICH COULD CONFRONT RABIN IF HE ASKS THE PRESIDENT TO OUTLINE U.S. THINKING ABOUT WHAT LIES DOWN THE ROAD, BEYOND ANOTHER INTERIM ACCORD WITH EGYPT. FORD AND KISSINGER WOULD THEN, NO DOUBT, REVERSE THE QUESTION, ASKING RABIN TO DESCRIBE ISRAEL'S POSITION. SOURCES HERE WERE NOT CERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT, AT SUCH A POINT, RABIN WOULD HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO LAY DOWN A SPECIFIC ISRAELI STANCE ON THESE ISSUES.... AMERICAN OFFICIALS HERE NOTED YESTERDAY THAT 'SOONER OR LATER' THE U.S. AND ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO WORK OUT THESE PROBLEMS. IT WAS THUS LIKELY THAT RABIN AND FORD WOULD ENTER INTO THIS VERY SENSITIVE AREA DURING THEIR TALKS TOMORROW AND THURSDAY."

4. ALONG SAME LINE, HAARETZ (MARGALIT) REPORTED THAT GOI ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PRIME MINISTER RABIN WOULD SEEK TO CLARIFY U.S. STAND REGARDING LONG TERM SETTLEMENT "CAUSED ASTONISHMENT AND CURIOSITY AMONG EXPERIENCED OBSERVERS." ACCORDING TO MARGALIT: "THE TRADITIONAL ISRAELI STAND WAS THAT ISRAEL WAS NOT INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING LATER STAGES OF AGREEMENTS, AND FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW THE ISRAELI ANNOUNCEMENT CONSTITUTED A SURPRISE.

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ONE OF THE EXPLANATIONS IN WASHINGTON IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT REFLECTS A RIFT BETWEEN THE SUPPORTERS OF THE POLICY OF STAGES AND THOSE IN FAVOR OF SEEKING AN OVERALL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT. THE ANNOUNCEMENT INCLUDED A COMPROMISE BETWEEN ELEMENTS THAT ARE COMPATIBLE WITH BOTH VIEWS. ISRAELI SOURCES HOPE THAT THE ENTIRE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES A BALANCED PICTURE OF ITS VIEW."

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